



Dear Rural Health Partner,

The Rural Health and Primary Care (RHPC) Advisory Committee is a Governor appointed advisory body on rural health and primary care issues in Iowa. The purpose of this committee is to provide insight and feedback on health related issues affecting rural Iowans. The committee identified telehealth services as a strategy to ensure access to high quality health to rural Iowans. We encourage you to consider the attached priorities when you are making health care decisions for Iowans.

According to the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center, Telehealth is a collection of means or methods for enhancing health care, public health, and health education delivery and support using telecommunications technologies. Telehealth is being successfully implemented across the country in the following healthcare settings: dentistry, counseling, physical and occupational therapy, home health, chronic disease monitoring and management, disaster management, and consumer and professional education.

Critical Access Hospitals in rural Iowa communities are successfully using telehealth as a means to deliver specialty care, including mental health services to Iowans. Telehealth is also being used as a recruiting tool for rural providers. A newly practicing provider may be more likely to consider working in a rural healthcare setting if they know their hospital has access to specialists 24/7 through telehealth services.

If you are interested in learning more about telehealth or telehealth policy, the following organizations are reliable resources:

- Center for Connected Health Policy National Telehealth Policy Resource Center: www.cchpca.org
- Telehealth Resource Centers - Great Plains Telehealth Resource & Assistance Center: www.gptrac.org

If you have questions about these recommendations, please contact the RHPC Advisory Committee administrator Megan Hartwig at megan.hartwig@idph.iowa.gov. Thank you for your consideration to include telehealth development as a strategy to expand Iowans' access to high quality healthcare services in their local communities.

Sincerely,

Jon Rosmann, RHPC Advisory Committee Chair